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EXAMINER

SAFAIPOUR, HOUSHANG

ART UNIT

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

Applicant's amendment filed on 4/4/2008 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed on 4/4/2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to "further describe that the guiding means includes at least two rollers between the printing module and the scanning module." Applicant argues that "the claimed invention is not disclosed or suggested by the cited references." Similar to the arguments presented in the previous office action, as to the location of the scanning module and the printing module with respect to the media path, applicant's disclosure has not specified where the two rollers are positioned (the position of the rollers is only shown in the figures) and furthermore it has not disclosed that positioning the rollers between the printing module and the scanning module, provides an advantage, is used for a particular purpose or solves a stated problem. One of ordinary skill in the art, furthermore, would have expected Applicant's invention to perform equally well with rollers positioned as taught by Ahn. Additionally, Ahn is also silent as to where the rollers 22 are positioned other than indicating that they are located "on the path of the document and the printable medium 10." (col. 6, lines 11-15). Therefore, the position of the rollers in the figures is not indicative of a fixed or actual location of the rollers 22. Specification merely discloses that they are located on the transporting path (col. 5, line 43). Therefore they could be located between modules 11 and 16 (fig. 3).

New claims 7 and 8 are directed towards the location of the scanning and printing modules and therefore, the arguments provided above apply to both claims. For the reasons stated above, examiner maintains his previous rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1, 2 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ahn (US Patent No. 6,519,047) and further in view of Jackson et al. (US Patent No. 5,624,196).

Regarding claim 1, Ahn discloses a multi-function peripheral (abstract), comprising:
a casing having a recording media path (fig. 1, starting at cassette 23 and ending at discharge tray 30) which has two ends forming respectively a recording media inlet and a recording media exit located on the exterior of the casing for receiving recording media into the casing and discharging the recording media out of the casing (fig. 3, cassette 23 and discharge tray 30);

a transparent board located on the recording media path and adjacent to the recording media inlet (fig. 3, transparent plate 31, col. 5 lines 55-57);

a scanning module (scanner 16) located on the transparent board for selectively scanning the recording media; and

a printing module (print unit 11) located on the recording media path and adjacent to the recording media exit (tray 30) for selectively printing the recording media, the recording media being moved on the recording media path and discharged out of the casing through the recording media exit (tray 30). Please refer to col. 5 for description of different components.

Regarding locations of the scan head and the print head, contrary to applicant's disclosure that shows both heads on the upper side of the board 20 (fig. 2), the cited reference discloses that the heads are located on the either side of the base frame 20 facing each other. Applicant has not disclosed that positioning the scan head and the print head on one side, provides an advantage, is used for a particular purpose or solves a stated problem. One of ordinary skill in the art, furthermore, would have expected Applicant's invention to perform equally well with both scan and print heads positioned as taught by Ahn.

Ahn discloses a plurality of guiding means located on the recording media path (fig. 4, rollers 22, col. 8 lines 5-10- please also refer to the arguments given above regarding the location of the rollers between scanning module and the printing module). Ahn does not provide any details pertaining to the structure of these rollers. Jackson discloses an apparatus for advancing a sheet of print media (abstract) and further discloses guiding means including two rollers which have a gap formed there between to allow the recording media to pass through by rolling, each of the rollers including an axle with a plurality of pressing elements mounted thereon for channeling the recording media to move in a rolling fashion (fig. 3, rollers 66 with axel 64 and rollers 72 with axel 78, col. 5 line 50 to col. 6 line 31). Therefore it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to use these rollers as guiding means in Ahn's shuttle scanning machine to facilitate advancing the document.

Regarding claim 2, Ahn discloses the multi-function peripheral of claim 1, wherein the recording media path further includes a panel (23, fig. 1) and a depressing member (29), the depressing member depressing the recording media on the panel so that the recording media is moved on the recording media path to the scanning module (16).

Regarding claim 6, Ahn discloses the multi-function peripheral of claim 1, wherein the transparent board is a flat glass board (fig. 1, transparent member 31).

Regarding claim 7, combination of Ahn and Jackson discloses the multi-function peripheral of claim 1, wherein the scanning module and the printing module are spaced apart from each other (Ahn, fig. 3) but not along the recording media path in a direction along which the recording media moves. Being apart in a direction along which the recording media moves, relates to the location of the scanning and printing head which has been fully discussed in the response to the arguments above.

Regarding claim 8, scanning module and the printing module face the same side of the recording media path, relates to the location of the scanning and printing head which has been fully discussed in the response to the arguments above.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO

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MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Houshang Safaipoor whose telephone number is (571)272-7412. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri. from 6:00am to 2:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward Coles can be reached on (571)272-7402. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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/Houshang Safaipour/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2625